

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04769 280842Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 280508Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2510
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
LONDON 3900
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 4769

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AF, ZP
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN AND ARABIAN PENINSULA SECURITY

REF STATE 153167

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER MADE POINTS REFTEL TO
MFA ASIA-AFRICA DIRECTOR AHMAD SIRAJ.PRESENTATION
EMPHASIZED THAT:
(A) USG AND MODERATE STATES OF THE REGION SHOULD JOIN
IN COMMON EFFORT TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN.
(B) IRAN HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING
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STABILITY IN REGION EAST OF GULF.
(C) USG HOPES THAT ARABIAN PENINSULA STATES WILL
STAY IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH IRAN AND USG.

2. SIRAJ'S REACTION WAS, "THIS IS NOTHING NEW. WE
HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU THIS FROM THE BEGINNING". HE
SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT PAKISTAN AND IRAN WERE

KEYS TO PROTECTING SECURITY OF GULF AND THAT HE HAD NO DOUBT SOVIETS HAD EVENTUAL AIM OF SECURING PORT ON ARABIAN SEA. HE ADDED THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT WAS GRATIFIED TO SEE U.S. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST PAKISTAN AND THAT SAUDIS AND IRANIANS HAVE BEEN IN CONSULTATIONS ON WAYS TO HELP NOT ONLY PAKISTAN, BUT ALSO TURKEY.

3. SIRAJ SAID THAT AFGHANIS HAD APPROACHED SAUDIS REQUESTING AID AND REASSURING THEM THAT NEW GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ISLAM. HE SAID THAT CONSIDERING SCALE OF NEW SOVIET AID AND THE PRESENCE OF NEW SOVIET ADVISORS IN AFGHANISTAN, U.S., SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN MUST MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY IN ORDER TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS VITAL TO GIVE ASSISTANCE QUICKLY AND WITHOUT ATTACHING CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FORCE AFGHANIS TO REJECT IT AND BECOME EVEN MORE RELIANT ON SOVIETS. IN THIS RESPECT, SIRAJ DREW ON EXAMPLE OF PDRY, WHERE SAUDI AID WAS TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE AND WHERE IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT SMALL AMOUNT OF SAUDI AID TO COUNTER TEN YEARS OF RELIANCE UPON COMMUNIST SOURCES. HE SAID THAT SAME MISTAKE SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED IN AFGHANISTAN. WEST

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